

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 043646

50

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66602

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:(HAMILTON

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:SARROS

----- 123916

O 051849Z MAR 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 043646

TODEP 145

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, INFO BONN, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN,
DUBLIN, THE HAGUE, LUXEMBOURG, PARIS, ROME, EC BRUSSELS,
NATO, MARCH 5, FROM LONDON RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 02781

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK

SUBJECT: THE NEW LABOR CABINET

1. SUMMARY AND COMMENT: WILSON'S CABINET IS DOMINATED
BY MODERATES. THE KEY POSITIONS OF CHANCELLOR OF THE
EXCHEQUER, FOREIGN SECRETARY, AND CHANCELLOR OF THE
DUCHY OF LANCASTER ARE ALL HELD BY STRONG FRIENDS OF
THE U.S. LABOR'S SHADOW SPOKESMEN ON THE EC AND ITS
MOST FANATIC ANTI-MARKETEERS, MICHAEL FOOT AND PETER
SHORE, HAVE BEEN GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMPLOYMENT
AND TRADE RESPECTIVELY, THEREBY REMOVING THEM FROM
THE ACTUAL WORK OF "RENEGOTIATING" BRITAIN'S EC MEMBER-
SHIP. BRUSSELS WILL TAKE LITTLE COMFORT, HOWEVER,
FROM THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF ANOTHER VETERAN ANTI-MARKET-
EER, FRED PEART, TO HIS OLD JOB AS MINISTER OF AGRI-
CULTURE. WILSON HAS NOT YET NAMED HIS DEFENSE MINISTER.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 043646

END SUMMARY

2. HAROLD WILSON HAS ANNOUNCED HIS FIRST FIFTEEN CABINET APPOINTMENTS. THEIR AGES AND THE POSITIONS THEY HELD IN THE LAST LABOR GOVERNMENT, 1966-70, ARE GIVEN IN PARENTHESES.

3. DENIS HEALEY - CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (56, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENSE). HEALEY HAS NOT BEEN VERY IMPRESSIVE AS SHADOW CHANCELLOR, AND MANY PEOPLE IN FINANCIAL CIRCLES WERE HOPING THAT WILSON WOULD APPOINT ROY JENKINS TO THIS CRITICAL POST INSTEAD. A LIBERAL PARTY SPOKESMAN HAS ALREADY CRITICIZED THE APPOINTMENT.

4. JAMES CALLAGHAN - FOREIGN SECRETARY (61, CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER; HOME SECRETARY). CALLAGHAN IS STRONGLY PRO-AMERICAN AND A STOUT DEFENDER OF NATO. IN LABOR'S INTERNAL FIGHTING OVER THE EC, HE HAS SIDED WITH THE ANTI-MARKETEERS, BUT HE IS NOT A FANATIC IN THE MOLD OF MICHAEL FOOT OR PETER SHORE.

5. ROY JENKINS - HOME SECRETARY (53, HOME SECRETARY AND CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER). FORMER DEPUTY LEADER OF THE PARTY, HE BROKE WITH WILSON OVER THE EC ISSUE IN 1971. HE REJOINED THE SHADOW CABINET LAST NOVEMBER, BUT HE AND WILSON REMAIN ON VERY COOL TERMS.

6. MICHAEL FOOT - EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY (60, HE DID NOT HOLD OFFICE IN THE LAST WILSON GOVERNMENT). HE HAS THE UNENVIABLE TASK OF MAKING PEACE WITH THE MINERS AND IMPROVING THE CLIMATE OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN BRITAIN. THE DARLING OF THE LEFT, HE WILL CLEARLY BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE TRADE UNIONS THAN REG PRENTICE, WHO HELD THE EMPLOYMENT PORTFOLIO WHILE LABOR WAS IN OPPOSITION, AND FREQUENTLY TOOK UP MODERATE STANDS THAT ANNOYED LEFTWING UNION LEADERS.

7. TONY BENN - SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDUSTRY (48, MINISTER OF TECHNOLOGY). THE GREAT POPULIST AND APOSTLE OF NATIONALIZATION; A THORN IN WILSON'S SIDE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 043646

8. PETER SHORE - SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE (49, MINISTER OF TECHNOLOGY AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS). FANATIC ANTI-MARKETEER, AND FORMER SPOKESMAN ON EC MATTERS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

9. ERIC VARLEY - SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY (41, WILSON'S PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARY AND A JUNIOR

MINISTER). A SPONSORED CANDIDATE OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkERS. HIS APPOINTMENT FULFILLS A PROMISE WILSON MADE TO THE NUM.

10. BARBARA CASTLE - SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES (62, MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EMPLOYMENT). WITH WILSON'S BACKING SHE

TRIED IN 1969 TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO BRING INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS INTO A MORE DISCIPLINED FRAMEWORK, BUT HAD TO BACK DOWN IN THE FACE OF TRADE UNION OPPOSITION. VOTED OUT OF SHADOW CABINET 1972. LEFT WING.

11. ANTHONY CROSLAND - SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT (55, VARIOUS POSTS, LATTERLY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL PLANNING). ONE OF THE MOST CREATIVE THINKERS IN THE PARTY, BUT LACKING IN POPULAR SUPPORT.

12. HAROLD LEVER - CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER (60, FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO TREASURY AND PAYMASTER GENERAL). T
E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, PRIME MINISTER, CABINET, PARTY LINE, TODEP 145
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE043646
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:(HAMILTON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740366/aaaacjvc.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE NEW LABOR CABINET
TAGS: PINT, TH, (WILSON, HAROLD)
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005